

Visiting the Troops

CGSC Today

Preparing Chaplains for Combat

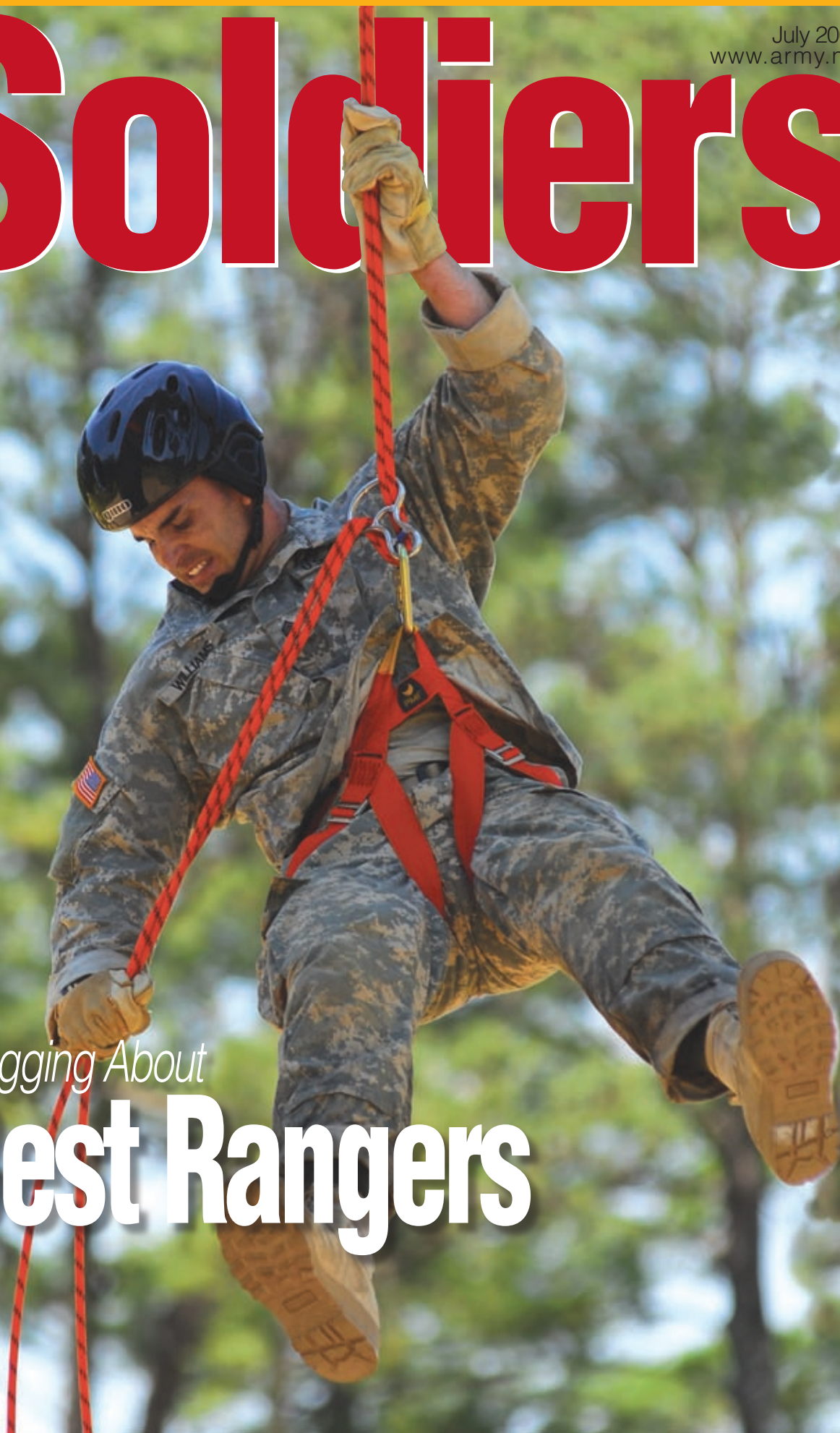
The Official U.S. Army Magazine

July 2007  
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# Soldiers

*Bragging About*

## Best Rangers







**Cover Story** — Page 6  
Sgt. 1st Class Joe Williams rappels  
off the first tower of the Tri Tower  
Challenge station at the 2007 Best  
Ranger Competition.  
— Photo by Capt. Kamil Sztalkoper

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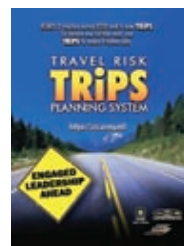
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# SOLDIERS MEDIA CENTER



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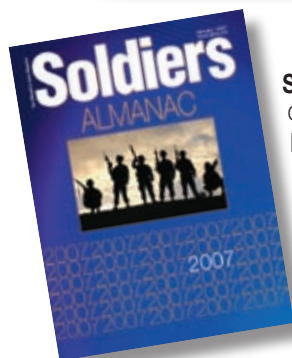
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## Soldiers

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## Hot Topics Chilled?

I HAVE just learned that your excellent "Hot Topics" product is no longer being published.

It is a real shame. Our students here at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy have long found "Hot Topics" to be most valuable in keeping up with current Armywide issues to support their small-group discussions.

Our library has kept all past issues of "Hot Topics," as well as all past issues of SOLDIERS, making it very easy for the more than 1,000 students we host each year to quickly find topics of interest.

Our students continue to request "Hot Topics," and we all hope that you will reconsider your decision to cease production of this fine and most useful publication.

**Yvonne Canales**  
via e-mail

AS a senior NCO, I've always appreciated the in-depth look your "Hot Topics" publication has taken at such important topics as smoking, spouse abuse and alcoholism. I've used various issues to counsel troops and inform family members, and have always found the publication to be timely, informative and easy to use.

Unfortunately, I've heard through the grapevine that you've stopped producing "Hot Topics," and I can only hope that it's a temporary situation. The publication is extremely useful, and I'd hate to think that such a great outlet for important information has disappeared forever.

Any possibility you'll give "Hot Topics" a second chance?

**SFC John Lane**  
via e-mail

*WE'VE received quite a few letters asking that we rethink the decision to cease publication of "Hot Topics," and can only reply that it was not our decision. The realities of current funding levels led to some hard choices. One of those was to suspend production of "Hot Topics," though we hope to revive it at some point in the future — given, of course, that we can muster the necessary resources.*

## Victims' Voices

I REALLY enjoyed the May story "Voice for the Victims." Not only was it well written and illustrated, but it also told a story that Americans don't often get the chance to hear.

Dr. Trimble and his team are helping the world to understand the true barbarity of the Saddam Hussein regime, and to see just how savage his rule was. By excavating the mass graves and helping to identify the victims, Dr. Trimble and his colleagues are doing a great service for humanity.

Thanks for bringing this story to light.

**Andrew Lichter**  
via e-mail

## Yankee Samurai

YOUR May story "Remembering the 'Yankee Samurai'" was an interesting, if long overdue, look at the immensely important role Nisei servicemembers played in the Allied victory in World War II.

I find it interesting, though, that the story's author deals with the unconstitutional and racist wartime imprisonment of Japanese-Americans in a single paragraph.

We should never forget that the operational orders directing the round-up and imprisonment of more than 100,000 people — most of whom were American citizens and all of whom were subjected to years of detention without trial and the confiscation of their property without compensation — referred to the places where the men, women and children were to be confined as "concentration camps."

**Lance Cpl. John Fujioka, USMC**  
via e-mail

THANKS for the May story "Remembering the 'Yankee Samurai.'" It was a fascinating look at the contributions Japanese-Americans made to America's victory over Japan.

In 1941 my grandfather was interned at the Manzanar camp in California along with his parents and two sisters. Despite the unfairness of his imprisonment, my grandfather ultimately enlisted in the Army and fought the Germans in Italy. He and the other Nisei men and women who volunteered to serve their nation, despite the injustices they suffered at America's hands, should be an inspiration to all Americans.

**Adele Sakura Hanson**  
via e-mail

## Crotch Rocket Kudos

JUST a note to let you all know how much I enjoyed the April story "Taming the Crotch Rockets."

As any senior NCO or officer will tell you, motorcycles and young Soldiers are a dangerous combination. While many riders are safe and responsible, there are also many who believe they're immortal. As a result, they tend to ride way beyond their skill level and IQ. The result is often dead or injured Soldiers and bereaved families.

**Richard Santora**  
via e-mail

GREAT job on the motorcycle-safety story.

Riding motorcycles is inherently risky. But to paraphrase John Wayne, "It's even worse if you're stupid." Thanks for reminding all riders that riding motorcycles doesn't have to be a blood sport.

**Sgt. Alan Johnson**  
via e-mail

## Iraqi Army

YOUR April article "The Iraqi Army — Moving Forward" was a refreshingly positive look at an organization that's improving despite massive obstacles. I've worked with Iraqi soldiers, and many of them are far more professional and capable than the civilian media would have us believe.

**Lt. James Angleton**  
via e-mail

## Soldiers Values Your Opinion

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# Visiting the Troops

Story and Photo by Mr. Jeremy S. Buddemeier



Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. absorbs details at a briefing hosted by Army Hawaii Family Housing. Among those joining the CSA for the briefing were his wife, Mrs. Sheila Casey; Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, commander of U.S. Army, Pacific; and Col. Howard J. Killian, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii.



**I**N his first three weeks as Army chief of staff, Gen. George W. Casey Jr. was seldom at his Pentagon office long enough to answer the phone.

That's because he and his wife and staff have been traveling to installations around the country, gathering input from Soldiers and spouses. He has said he intends to integrate their opinions into seven initiatives he's identified to balance the Army's strategic requirements and resources.

The seven Army initiatives were developed out of concern for the stresses placed on the all-volunteer force and the Army's ability to sustain it, he said.

The chief's entourage made several stops at installations in Hawaii, including visiting wounded Soldiers at Oahu's Tripler Army Medical Center, and interacting with Soldiers, spouses and support-program leaders at Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks, also on Oahu.

At Schofield Barracks, Gen. Casey toured an Army Hawaii Family Housing model home and visited the Kalakaua Community Center; strolled through recently remodeled barracks and a dining facility, and addressed concerns of young leaders at the noncommissioned officer academy.

At the NCO academy, 161 candidates welcomed Gen. Casey with a booming, synchronized rendition of the Soldier's Creed.

---

Mr. Jeremy S. Buddemeier is editor of the "Hawaii Army Weekly."


"Let me take a moment to look you in the eyes," he said, as he came closer and stared into the audience. "Old Soldiers like myself need to look you in the eye ... to see your fire."

After sharing an overview of the seven initiatives, responding to Soldiers' questions, and joining them for lunch, he attended a town-hall meeting with more than 100 spouses of deployed Soldiers.

Many of the Soldiers' and spouses' questions centered on the recent three-month deployment extension and changes in policy they can expect to see from the new chief of staff.

"I don't intend to make any hard left or right turns ... but I will adopt policies to mitigate the impact on all of you," he said.

"The goal is to get back to 12-12 and move to a 12-24," he said, speaking of the current 15-month deployments, with 12 months of dwell time, "but I really don't know when that will be. I don't have any control over the demand for the force."

Gen. Casey visited about 10 installations during his first two months as chief of staff. At the time this article was written, he planned to implement changes necessary to achieve objectives set forth in the seven Army initiatives by July, he said. 

**Soldiers and family members are encouraged to submit suggestions to the chief of staff via e-mail at [csa.feedback@us.army.mil](mailto:csa.feedback@us.army.mil).**

## The Army's Initiatives

GEN. George W. Casey's seven initiatives are:

- Speed up the Army's growth and improvements to readiness;
- Enhance the quality of support to Soldiers, civilians and families, including standardization of services, such as family-readiness groups, and mitigation strategies for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the effects on children of a parent's deployment;
- Sustain the momentum of modernization by implementing current technologies and improving the force incrementally and continually;
- Complete reserve-component transition to an operational force, to smooth the transition for Reservists to active duty, promote unit cohesion, and operationally align units and resources to enhance deployment-rotation predictability;

- Improve leader development by adapting an educational system to support the expeditionary Army and establishing institutional activities to retain leaders;

- Adapt Army institutions to support an expeditionary Army at war, including making training programs more responsive to the pace and operational tempo of today's Army, and standardizing care for quality-of-life programs across installations; and

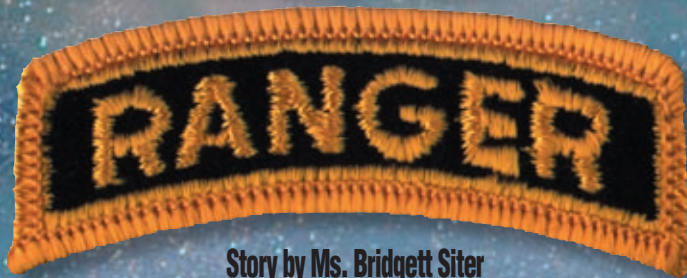
- Build strategic-communication capabilities to effectively communicate with internal and external audiences. This initiative proposes increasing the level of participation in the current public-affairs process, speaking with one voice in telling the Army's story and embracing a culture of engagement.

— Mr. Jeremy S. Buddemeier





# Bragging about **BEST**



Story by Ms. Bridgett Siter

**M**ASTER Sgt. Walt Zajkowski returned for the ninth time to compete in the Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Ga.

This time — following one of the closest competitions in the event's history — he finally earned the coveted Best Ranger title with teammate Maj. Liam Collins.

The two took bragging rights home to the Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C.

“Our collective experience turned out to be our collective strength,” Maj. Collins said, “because we were up against a really strong field of competitors. Every event had different winners. And anybody could have taken the lead.”

---

Ms. Bridgett Siter works in the Fort Benning, Ga., Public Affairs Office.





Staff Sgt. Blake Simms and Capt. John Spencer jump from a hovering Black Hawk helicopter into Victory Pond during the helocast event. Once in the water, the team had to either pull or push their rucksack raft to shore.

Capt. Kamil Szalkooper





Capt. Kamil Szalkoper



Bridgett Siler

▲ Capts. Andrew Farina and David Uthlaut, representing the 25th Infantry Division, slide down the inverted rope obstacle while negotiating the Darby Queen obstacle course on the third day of the competition.

▲ Capt. David Uthlaut contemplates the climb ahead on the Tri-Tower Challenge during Saturday's Day Stakes event. The Tri-Tower, a series of climbs, descents and rappels, replaced the Day Stakes' traditional centerpiece, the Prusik climb.

Officials of Fort Benning's Ranger Training Brigade, which hosted the 24th annual competition, said no one team had been pegged to win this year's title. However, the team of Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Greenway and his son, Staff Sgt. Brandon Greenway, were favorites, largely because no other father-son team has ever competed in Best Ranger, and Command Sgt. Maj. Greenway, at 47, was the oldest-ever competitor.

The father-son team finished in 13th place.

Other competitors included the team of Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Colman and Staff Sgt. Robert Mustoe, who had competed as a team last year.

Sgt. 1st Class Colman broke his foot in training, before the 24-mile road march, but opted to participate in the march nonetheless. Ten miles





▲ Staff Sgt. Michael Broussard and Sgt. Luke McDowell, representing the 75th Ranger Regiment, ascend the confidence climb obstacle of the Darby Queen.

into it, when it looked like he wouldn't make it, Staff Sgt. Mustoe shouldered his partner's rucksack atop his own, toting more than 130 pounds to the finish line.

Sgt. 1st Class Colman was hurting, and rather than continue the competition, the team chose to pull out.

"The truth is, some really good teams didn't make it to the finish line," said Ranger Training Brigade commander Col. Greg Hager. Others finished despite the odds against them.

One such team was composed of Sgt. 1st Class Isaac Grunewald, from the 11th Infantry Regiment, and Sgt. 1st Class Eric Turk, from Special Operations Cmd. Their pairing was a last-minute decision, Col. Hager said. Sgt. 1st Class Turk had been an alternate, and Sgt. 1st Class Grunewald lost his original teammate to an injury.

"Here were two guys who'd never trained together, but finished in 15th place," Col. Hager said.

Early on, the winning team of Maj. Collins and Master Sgt. Zajkowski had moved into 2nd place. In fact, they were in that position at the

Bridgett Siter



▲ Sgt. 1st Class Arron Garris and Staff Sgt. Cedric King drag a weighted sled on the first day of the competition.

start of day two — boasting 967 points after the day-one road march, only 24 points behind Capt. Andrew Farina and David Uthlaut, from the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division.





Bridgett Siter

▲ Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Greenway and his son, Staff Sgt. Brandon Greenway, take to the road for the buddy run on the first day of the competition. The Greenways were the first father-son team to compete. At 47, the senior Greenway was the oldest competitor ever. The two rookies placed 13th.





The two captains, both rookies, fell to 3rd place on the morning after an all-night orienteering event. That's when Maj. Collins and Master Sgt. Zajkowski moved into 1st place and the 75th Ranger Regiment's Sgts. 1st Class Billy Pouliot and Adam Nash took a shaky 2nd place, only 10 points ahead of Cpts. Farina and Uthlaut.

It was the first Best Ranger competition for Sgt. 1st Class Pouliot and the third for Sgt. 1st Class Nash, who was on the winning team in 2004.

The 24th annual Best Ranger Competition started

▲ Sgt. 1st Class Travis Lloyd of the 5th Ranger Training Battalion crawls under a barbed-wire obstacle on the last day of the competition.

with 39 teams, 12 more than last year. And, so that the competition would reflect the realities of combat, planners did away with some of the competition's traditional events, including the tomahawk throw, archery and what's called the Prusik Climb.

A series of climbs called the Tri-Tower Challenge, rappels and rope descents supplanted the former events, Col. Hager said. 🚩



▲ Winners Maj. Liam Collins (left) and Master Sgt. Walter Zajkowski took home bragging rights to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. Here, the two veteran competitors raise the Colt pistols they were presented during a ceremony at Fort Benning's Ranger Memorial.



# Preparing Chaplains for Combat

Story by Mr. Don Kramer, Photos by Mr. Jason Kaye

**C**HAPLAINS from the Fort Lewis, Wash.,-based 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, who deployed to Iraq about a year ago, are serving shoulder to shoulder with infantry Soldiers and even participating in combat patrols.

In response to reports the chaplains sent to the rear from Operation Iraqi Freedom, training for other

chaplains and their assistants in the 2nd Inf. Div.'s 4th Bde. — who had received deployment orders to Iraq at the time this article was written — took a sharply tactical turn.

The 4th Bde. chaplains underwent rigorous training at the post. Field problems were part of Cascadian Commitment, the brigade's final field-training exercise before the unit and its Stryker vehicles went on to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., to certify for deployment.

In the three-station field-training exercise, chaplains first learned how to mount, dismount and tactically deploy from the Strykers. In the second phase, their Strykers encountered simulated improvised explosive devices. Assistants suppressed "enemy fire," while chaplains administered first aid to "wounded" Soldiers near the source of the "ambush."

The final training phase required a dismounted patrol to advance to a mock village and react to another "ambush." Under heavy "fire," the chaplains were again required to perform first aid to more severely wounded casualties and even administer last rights.

Chaplain (Maj.) Scott Riedel, the 4th Bde. chaplain, combined his experiences in two other deployments with current information from 3rd Bde. units and a network of friends downrange to produce a realistic training experience. He said the exer-

Mr. Don Kramer and Mr. Jason Kaye work for the Northwest Guardian newspaper at Fort Lewis, Wash.



◀ Chaplain (Maj.) Scott Riedel of the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, takes notes while observing tactical training for the brigade's chaplains.



► Sgt. Travis Graves leads Chaplain (Capt.) Dave Ward and his assistant, Pvt. 2 Jeffrey Berres, through the paintball course at Fort Lewis.

cise incorporated events based on 18 months of training, including recent medical classes and the Emergency Medical Ministry Course.

“This is a combination of everything they’ve done,” Maj. Riedel said of the chaplains who underwent the training in preparation for deployment. “This is going to be the most hands-on training these chaplains will undergo.”

Maj. Riedel said he wants chaplains and chaplains’ assistants to be able to move together downrange and take orders from the squad leaders they’re going to be with.

“We make the medical tasks as real as possible,” said Capt. Tim Orcutt of Company C, 202nd Support Battalion. “We try to stress the chaplains physically and mentally. These guys are going to be really

“This is a combination of everything they’ve done. This is going to be the most hands-on training these chaplains will undergo.”







▲ Chaplain (Capt.) Dave Ward treats a simulated casualty while Soldiers from Headquarters and HQs. Company, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, provide cover.

prepared, because they went through the Stryker First-Responder program. That teaches them not only about their equipment and their improved first-aid kits, but how to treat shock, massive bleeding and head injuries.”

Thanks to the use of paintball guns, it was also the most realistic combat training the chaplains have undergone.

“There was a point when paintball pellets were hitting a piece of metal right by my head,” said Chaplain (Capt.) Dave Ward after a 10-minute

“firefight” at a mock village.

“It was a very real effort to try to put a tourniquet on someone and keep my head down, because I knew if I didn’t, my head would get hit with a paintball,” he said.

His role was to minister to the “injured” and “dying,” while his assistant, Pvt. 2 Jeffrey Berres, focused on keeping the chaplain alive.

The pair form a religious support

team, one of seven in the brigade.

“A chaplain cannot carry a weapon in combat,” said Maj. Riedel’s assistant, Sgt. Benjamin Decker. “In a garrison environment, we act as a team; we do a lot of administrative work. We conduct a lot of programs, such as career breakfasts, counseling and suicide prevention. But in a combat environment, I basically work as a bodyguard for the chaplain. We

“I basically work as a bodyguard for the chaplain. We make sure the chaplains are safe, so they can do what they need to do.”



► Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) David Hicks, the Army's chief of chaplains, speaks to servicemembers at a prayer breakfast at Camp Victory.

make sure the chaplains are safe, so they can do what they need to do.”

As a result, the seven-week advanced individual training for chaplains’ assistants has taken on more of a combat orientation, Sgt. Decker said.

The battlefield is especially dangerous for chaplains, since the enemy doesn’t recognize religious icons as symbols worn by noncombatants.

“The enemy shoots at anyone he thinks is American,” said the 4th Bde. chaplain.

Miraculously, Maj. Riedel said, no chaplains have yet been killed in Iraq. A Catholic priest, however, has been seriously wounded in an IED blast and remains in a Veterans Administration hospital.

“We’re in convoys, just like everybody else,” Maj. Riedel said. “When I went to Iraq, we had a ‘soft-skinned’ vehicle. I had no up-armor; I had no doors on my Humvee. I had no weapon.

“All the chaplains are the primary drivers in Humvees,” he said. “We got shot at. I had rounds going over my foot, RPGs, everything.”

Despite the dangers, Maj. Riedel said the brigade religious-support teams are dedicated, because they know how important their mission is to the troops.

“If Soldiers know God is with them, they’re going to function,” he said. “If they think they’re alone, they’re not.” 🇺🇸

► Soldiers and other service members bow their heads during the service.



## Chaplains Meet in Iraq

Story and Photos by Spc. Stephanie Homan

**A**RMY chaplains in Iraq met recently at Camp Victory to discuss challenges they face throughout the war-torn country, possible solutions, and positive events and programs they’ve experienced.

Col. Michael Tarvin, command chaplain for Multi-National Corps-Iraq, led the meeting, which he said gave chaplains a chance to connect.

“The areas we specifically targeted at the training conference were sexual assault by Soldiers and the role of the chaplain in memorial ceremonies,” Col. Tarvin said. The group also addressed the issues of suicide in the Army, the reunion of redeploying Soldiers with their families and Soldiers’ reintegration into society upon redeployment to their home stations.

“I have personally stressed to all our chaplains the need to be focused on three primary areas of ministry while they’re here in Iraq,” Col. Tarvin said. Those include providing religious services, counseling and educational programs; offering sacraments, and caring for the wounded and honoring the dead.

The response to services and programs has been good, he said.

Each month, about 40,000 people attend services in the theater of operations, some 8,000 attend religious education sessions and 13,000 seek counseling. Additionally, chaplains visit about 1,900 hospitalized service members, Col. Tarvin said. 🇺🇸

Spc. Stephanie Homan was assigned to Camp Victory, Iraq, when this article was written.



# CGSC Today

Story by Ms. Janet Wray   Photos by Ms. Prudence Siebert

**T**he U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., has been educating and developing military leaders since its founding in 1881. Today's CGSC leaders say their mission of education and leader development not only touches mid-career and senior military officers and senior NCOs, but civilian leaders as well.

The CGSC has five schools — the Command and General Staff School, the School of Advanced Distributed Learning, the School of Advanced Military Studies, the School for Command Preparation and the most recent addition to CGSC, the Army Management Staff College at Fort Belvoir, Va.

## ***A Changing Environment***

To accomplish its mission and align with the current operational environment, there have been a few changes at CGSC in the past three years, said Col. Keith Cooper,

CGSC's acting deputy commandant.

For example, the School for Command Preparation — which educates and prepares all Army officers selected for battalion- and brigade-level command — has welcomed battalion and brigade command sergeants major selectees to its resident course at Fort Leavenworth, Col. Cooper said.

In addition, all Army majors now attend the CGSS's Intermediate Level Education program, said Col. Scott Weaver, the CGSS dean of academics.

Every basic branch officer "who will be with operational forces at corps level or below should expect to come to Leavenworth for 10 months for the common core course and the Advanced Operations and Warfighting portions of ILE," Col. Weaver said.

He added that the Army is allowing a number of officers in the maneuver, fire and effects branches to make advanced civil schooling part of Intermediate Level Education, which can affect opportunities to attend the course at Fort Leavenworth, but officers should work out the details for

Ms. Janet Wray is Fort Leavenworth's public information officer. Ms. Prudence Siebert works for the post newspaper.







Students take a break from classes in the Hall of Fame hallway in CGSC's Bell Hall.

Janet Wray





➤ Russ Crumrine, an instructor in the Directorate of Joint and Multinational Operations, talks with Marine Maj. Eric Johnson while Air Force Maj. Kurt Schendzielos and Maj. Carlos Gonzalez confer.

ILE schooling with their branches, he said.

“The other 30 percent, those of officers who have chosen to move from the operational part of the Army, will attend the three-and-a-half-month ILE common core in residence,” Weaver said. “Though they may come to Fort Leavenworth, it is likely they will attend the common core at one of our satellite campuses — Fort Belvoir; Fort Gordon, Ga.; or Fort Lee, Va. They all offer the same course taught by CGSC faculty.”

The School of Advanced Distributed Learning provides a similar educational experience for Reserve and Guard officers, said Col. Monty

Powers, the program’s director.

There are 5,000 officers currently enrolled in the program, he said. Of those, 1,400 attend the “M” course, a Total Army School System battalion-led course in which instructors facilitate learning for 16-student groups.

“We also have the self-paced “S” course, which is Internet-based,” Col. Powers said. About 3,200 officers are now enrolled in the course.

Both the “M” and “S” courses are “virtually exactly what you get in the resident phase,” Col. Powers said. He noted that many of the “M” course instructors have spent time deployed overseas and bring their experiences to the classroom.

### ***A New Dynamic***

CGSC leaders said the dynamic of the classes at the resident ILE has changed, because 70 to 80 percent of the students now bring combat experience to the classroom.

Col. Kevin Benson, director of the School of Advanced Military Studies, noted that SAMS seminars are led by former battalion commanders, all of whom are combat veterans.

“That makes our education very powerful, because it exposes students to former battalion commanders who

are both combat veterans and War College graduates,” he said.

SAMS has two programs — the 83-student Advanced Military Studies Program for majors, and the Advanced Operational Arts Studies Fellowship, a War College-level program with 12 students.

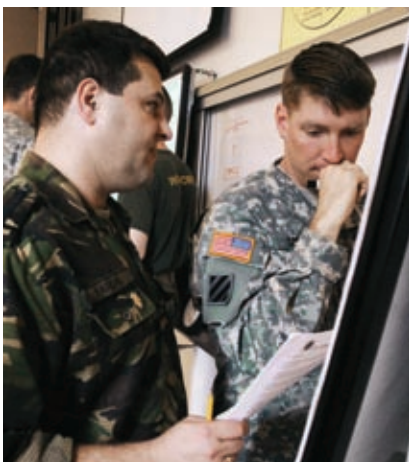
“The two programs are linked because the War College guys remain with us for two years,” Col. Benson said. “The first year they are students, but the second year the Army officers remain as seminar leaders.”

### ***New Emphases***

CGSC has increased its instruction on counterinsurgency, cultural understanding and language orientation. Within ILE, for instance, there is a six-hour block on foundations that focuses on the importance of cultural considerations in all aspects of military operations.

“Understanding differences in cultural expectations and social norms, and how they influence a populace’s perceptions of what Soldiers are trying to accomplish, is now recognized as crucial to mission success in ongoing and future military operations,” Col. Weaver said. “The Army sees understanding cultural contexts, and being able to work across them, as a crucial leader skill.”

“The intent isn’t to make students experts in a specific culture, but to



➤ Romanian Maj. Felician Farcas and Maj. Erich Spragg discuss the components and capabilities of a joint task force during a joint advanced warfighting exercise held at CGSC’s Bell Hall.



# A New Home for CGSC

By Mr. Scott Thompson

**B**eginning in August, students and faculty members at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College will have a new facility to call home. The Lewis and Clark Center — a \$115 million, 410,000-square foot facility — will replace Bell Hall, CGSC's home since 1958.

## State-of-the-Art Learning

In the works for some five years, the Lewis and Clark Center, or L&C as it's already known, will use state-of-the-art technologies to improve the learning experience for both instructors and students.

"Planners wanted to create the best academic environments possible, not to just create a standard military institutional facility," said Lt. Col. John Rovero, CGSC's strategic plans officer. "So they went into this with the idea of searching out and finding the best in the academic world, and so they toured military and civilian schools and universities and chose some of the better ideas." When fully complete, the facility's technology will be cutting-edge.

"It will enhance the educational experience," he said. "Everything we put into this building went into augmenting and enhancing that experience."


For example, video teleconferencing is available throughout the building, and classrooms feature flat-screen televisions and computers at each workstation. All 96 of the classrooms are identical and interchangeable, and audiovisual technology interlinks each room, he said. The technology can also link classrooms with the outside world, enabling a Fort Leavenworth instructor to teach a class on the east coast from the L&C classroom.

"We could hypothetically have somebody sitting in the Pentagon and talking to all 96 classrooms at the same time," he said.

## New Auditoriums


The Lewis and Clark Center's Eisenhower Auditorium will seat 2,004 people, and will have full stage lighting, electronic technology for large screen projections and a state-of-the-art audio system. The smaller 325-seat Marshall Auditorium will also include video teleconferencing capabilities, and includes computer stations and microphones.

Other staples of Bell Hall — the Trophy Lounge and the CGSC Hall of Fame — will find new homes in the L&C Center. The wooden lockers for use by CGSC students are deeper, the elevators and fire alarms will give verbal instructions, and the atrium and Trophy Lounge near Eisenhower Auditorium can be used as large-scale reception areas.

The Lewis and Clark Center will formally open following an Aug. 13 ribbon-cutting ceremony, said Mike Wolf, chief of the Engineering Division for Fort Leavenworth's Directorate of Installation Support. Bell Hall will be demolished in August 2008. 

Mr. Scott Thompson is a writer for the Fort Leavenworth Lamp newspaper.



 In the works for some five years, the Lewis and Clark Center will use state-of-the-art technologies to improve the learning experience for both instructors and students.

help them recognize that they need to apply cultural considerations," said Russ Crumrine, a retired Middle East foreign area officer who instructs within the college's Department of Joint, Interagency and Multinational Operations.

"We can't pack all the knowledge they'll need for the next 10 years of their careers into three-and-a-half months," Col. Weaver said, "but we can give them the appetite and tools for learning, so they can continue to educate themselves to become better professionals."

## International Resources

There are currently 91 international officers enrolled in ILE and eight

in SAMS, and Col. Weaver said their presence within CGSC underscores the fact that the Army is global.


"Having international officers as students is a living opportunity for the U.S. students," he added. "An added benefit is witnessing the international officers' interaction with each other, which makes for a rich learning experience."

College leaders agree that having international and sister-service officers on the faculty adds to the students' learning experience. The CGSS currently has four international faculty members — one each from Germany,

the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada — and SAMS has one from Germany. In addition, there are 19 officers from other branches of the military on the faculty of CGSS, and one Marine on the SAMS faculty.

Students arriving late this summer to attend the August 2007 ILE course

will see the biggest change of all, however, the opening of the new academic facility

— the Lewis and Clark Center [*see accompanying story*]. The center will replace Bell Hall, which has housed the Command and General Staff College since 1958. 

For more on CGSC and its programs, visit [cgsc.leavenworth.army.mil](http://cgsc.leavenworth.army.mil).



*Making a Difference in*

# CENTRAL AMERICA

Story by Maj. Eric Atkisson, Photos by Ms. Kaye Richey

IN October 1998 one of the deadliest hurricanes in history struck Central America. Over a six-day period Hurricane Mitch pounded the coast with waves up to 22 feet high. It dropped as much as 75 inches of rain on parts of Honduras and Nicaragua, triggering flooding that killed more than 11,000 people, left

Maj. Eric Atkisson and Ms. Kaye Richey work in the U.S. Army, South, Public Affairs Office.

more than 8,000 missing, and caused an estimated \$5 billion in damages, according to officials of U.S. Army, South.

In Honduras, the hurricane destroyed about 70 percent of the nation's crops and between 70 and 80 percent of its infrastructure, including 25 villages. More than 20 percent of Hondurans were left homeless, and the population suffered outbreaks of malaria, dengue fever and cholera.

The president of Honduras, Carlos Roberto Flores, wasn't exaggerating when he said that the hurricane destroyed 50 years of progress in his country.

In response to the crisis, U.S. Southern Command in Miami, Fla., established two joint task forces to

▼ Sgt. Brady Schaures of 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, gives local children a tour of a UH-60 Black Hawk in Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala. The aircraft was in the area to participate in the JLOTS exercise.







▲ Army supplies and equipment brought ashore from Navy vessels accumulate at the Guatemalan naval base at Puerto Quetzal.

► Soldiers inspect a forklift that was just brought ashore. Once cleared for operation, the vehicle will be put to work moving pallets of equipment and supplies.

coordinate humanitarian-assistance and disaster-relief operations in the region. Joint Task Force Bravo, already stationed at Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras, coordinated efforts in that country, while JTF Aguila stood up in El Salvador to coordinate relief efforts in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.

A three-phased operation known as *Fuerte Apoyo* (Spanish for strong support) commenced. Intended to save lives, it allowed relief workers to deliver critical supplies, repair infrastructure and otherwise speed recovery in affected nations.

The operation ended in 1999, but the U.S. spirit of strong support for Central America remains as strong as ever almost a decade later. In February, USARSO conducted an exercise meant to familiarize its Soldiers and civilians with the process of establishing and running an operational command post to coordinate relief







Miguel A. Negron

◀ Soldiers at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, unload materiel that will be used to construct a command post to support Exercise Fuerte Apoyo.

operations like those conducted in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch.

It was USARSO's second command-post exercise in four months and was part of a continuing effort to prepare the command for its July 2008 transformation as part of Sixth Army. At that time, USARSO will have the ability to deploy a joint task force or joint forces land-component command headquarters into the SOUTHCOM area of operations, which includes more than 30 countries and 15.6 million square miles of territory in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Lt. Col. Jim Rose, who supervised operations at the command post during the exercise, described Fuerte Apoyo 2007 as "a key training event for USARSO Soldiers. This is the first time in a number of years that we've had the opportunity to deploy, as a collective body, into Central America," he said.

Eight years to be exact. Originally stationed in Panama, USARSO moved to Fort Buchanan, P.R., in 1999 and then to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in 2003.

The Fuerte Apoyo exercise "gave us a chance to do the things we would normally do from San Antonio," said Maj. Andrew Ajamian, the new USARSO Headquarters and HQs. Company commander. "Doing those things while we were deployed gave us a chance to exercise the part of our headquarters that will be deployable."

To maximize the training opportunity of the CPX at Soto Cano, USARSO timed FA 07 to coincide with the arrival of Army supplies and equipment for the New Horizons 2007 exercises in Guatemala and

Belize, where U.S. military personnel build medical clinics, schools and wells, and provide thousands of local citizens with basic medical and dental care. The materiel for these exercises arrived at Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala, on Navy ships from San Diego, Calif.; Beaumont, Texas; and Norfolk, Va.

Using a floating dock designed for use at ports that are unable to accommodate large Navy vessels, loadmasters offloaded from the USNS *Soderman* more than 400 pieces of equipment destined for New Horizons base camps in Guatemala and Belize.

From the JTF FA 07 command post at Soto Cano, USARSO personnel monitored port operations and tracked the movement of personnel and materiel to the base camps.

"I learned what USARSO as a whole is designed to do," said Sgt. Ragnar Jamieson, an automations NCO. Sgt. Jamieson ran the help desk



▶ A Sailor guides a vehicle off a Navy lighter at Puerto Quetzal. The vessel allows vehicles and equipment to be downloaded from cargo ships lying offshore, and then brought directly to the beach.



As SOUTHCOM's contingency response force for Central America, JTF Bravo is normally responsible for command and control of New Horizons exercises.

during the exercise, ensuring that exercise computers functioned properly.

As SOUTHCOM's contingency response force for Central America, JTF Bravo is normally responsible for command and control of New Horizons exercises, which are conducted annually in Central and South America.


The task force primarily employs personnel from reserve-component units to provide much-needed medical, veterinary and engineering support to remote communities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean basin.

This year's task force in Guatemala included Soldiers from the Missouri and Alabama Army National

Guards, and the Army Reserve. They worked alongside members of the Air Force Reserve, Navy Reserve and Guatemalan army.

The task force built two clinics, two schools and three wells in the San Marcos region, and conducted two medical-readiness training exercises that treated some 1,000 citizens a day

between March and April.

The task force in Belize included Soldiers from the Louisiana and Alabama Guards, and Army Reserve Soldiers working with active-duty personnel from the Army, Navy and Belize defense force. They built four schools and conducted medical- and dental-readiness training exercises. 

➤ USARSO commander Brig. Gen. Ken Keen briefs the Guatemalan army's chief of staff, Gen. Mario Aguilar Bran, on the progress of the JLOTS operation at Puerto Quetzal.

▼ Journalists and civilians portraying humanitarian-relief workers watch a video about USARSO's missions and capabilities while awaiting a briefing on the exercise's progress.







## Honduras

(Main photo) During firefighting training on the Rio del Hombre River, Staff Sgt. Michael Wagner (at left) and Sgt. Chris Salmond check the position of their CH-47's 2,000 gallon bucket.

(Insert) The Chinook scoops up a bucket of water from the river.

— Photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Sonny Cohrs, USAF







## ► Korea

Medics carry a simulated casualty during a mass-casualty drill.

— Photo by Staff Sgt.  
Francisco V. Govea II, USAF

## ▼ Iraq

Staff Sgt. Larry Clapper checks the area for snipers while pulling security inside an unused sewage pipe during a combined cordon and search with the Iraqi army in Mansour.

— Photo by Sgt. Tierney P. Nowland







## ▲ Iraq

Servicemembers salute during a ceremony marking the transfer of authority over Multi-National Corps-Iraq from V Corps to III Corps at Al Faw Palace.

— Photo by Sgt. Curt Cashour

## ◀ Afghanistan

Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, destroy a Taliban safehouse discovered during operations in Paktika Province.

— Photo by Staff Sgt. Justin Holley



## ▲ Iraq

Grek, a military working dog, looks to its handler, Staff Sgt. Kevin Reese, for reassurance when enemy gunfire erupts during the search of a village. — Photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall, USAF



# AIR RES



Staff Sgt. Cary Humphries, USAF

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# SUPPLY

Story and Photos by Pfc. Robert Baumgartner

**W**ITH the majority of American casualties in Iraq being caused by roadside bombs, planners in the 82nd Airborne Division Sustainment Brigade at Camp Adder, Iraq, are spearheading a coalition effort to counter the threat of improvised explosive devices.

The 82nd Sustainment Bde., in conjunction with the 13th Sustainment Command and the Australian army Battle Group Overwatch, have turned to airdrops to keep convoys off the road.

“As the number of military and border-transition training teams increases, the necessity to resupply these remote units will increase as well,” said Lt. Col. Bill Hughes, deputy commander of the 82nd Sustainment Bde.

“Airdrop supply, especially with the accurate Improved Containerized Delivery System, will reduce the number of trucks on the road and the

number of Soldiers exposed to the IED threat,” he said.

One such operation, dubbed Alamein IV, involved the aerial supply to remote elements of an Australian army border-transition team in southwest Iraq. The drop of 24 ICDS bundles — consisting of food, water and equipment — allowed the Australians to remain on station while they provided supplies to the Iraqi army protecting Iraq’s border.

“Instead of sending a convoy to pick up supplies, they’re going to be dropped right here in our backyard,” said Australian army Capt. David Barton.

The supplies for the mission, coming from Logistical Support Area Anaconda, were packed and rigged for drop by parachute riggers of the 600th Quartermaster Company from Fort Bragg, N.C.

“Everything we’re doing here is trying to save lives and limit the number of convoys that have to go out,” said Chief Warrant Officer David Bird, a 600th QM Co. parachute rigger.

With the Pentagon asking Congress for additional funding for the research and development of counter-IED technology, airdropping supplies and keeping vehicles off the road seems to be one certain way to minimize the threat from roadside bombs, he said.

“It took four trucks to carry the equivalent amount of supplies that we can provide in an airdrop, and that was an inter-post transfer. Outside the wire, we would need a team of gun trucks to protect a resupply convoy,” said Chief Warrant Officer Bird.

Most likely, they’d stumble on some “Christmas lights” strung out along the side of the road and would have to call for an explosive ordnance disposal team to clear it. That would mean more trucks would be in danger of running over an IED, and more security would be required, he added.

Out in the barren wasteland of the southwestern Iraq desert, soldiers from the Australian army’s Battle Group Overwatch stood ready to recover supplies that would fall from the sky. After placing a strobe beacon

Pfc. Robert Baumgartner is assigned to the 82nd Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs Office at Camp Adder, Iraq.





“We’re trying to save lives, so we want to get Soldiers off the drop zone quickly. We don’t want them worrying about this item or that item.”

on the drop zone, the Aussies scanned the sky for signs of the U.S. Air Force C-130 carrying their payload.

The call from the Air Force crackled over the radio, alerting the soldiers on the ground that the first plane would be overhead in five minutes.

Right on schedule, the first C-130 pierced the dark cloud layer, streaming a trail of parachute canopies. Five minutes later, the second plane appeared and unloaded its payload.

After all the bundles had touched down, the Aussies sped out to the drop zone on their Bushmaster fighting vehicles to recover the cargo. Capt. Barton was impressed with the precision of the drop.

“I can’t believe how accurate it was. Despite the relatively high winds, most of the bundles landed 100 to 150 meters around the beacon,” he said.

◀ A member of Australia’s Battle Group Overwatch looks on as cargo dropped by an American C-130 descends toward the desert drop zone.

▶ Australian Capt. Paul Manoel stands atop an armored vehicle while coordinating the airdrop. His soldiers watch and wait for the cargo to land before embarking on the recovery.



► Riggers of the 600th Quartermaster Company at Camp Adder prepare one of the pallets that will later be dropped to the Australian unit.

Speed of package recovery by the ground unit is another consideration for the riggers as they pack. They want to make sure airdrop-recovery assets can get out of the area as fast as possible. The bundles can be a confusing mess of nylon webbing, so the riggers color-code the bundles. White webbing means cut, green webbing means keep.

“The accuracy of the drop, combined with the cut-and-go rigging of the bundles, made this easy for us,” Capt. Barton said.


That is exactly what the riggers of the 600th QM Co. wanted to hear.

“We’re trying to save lives, so

we want to get Soldiers off the drop zone quickly. We don’t want them worrying about this item or that item. Just cut, grab and go,” Chief Warrant Officer Bird said.

The riggers hope that airdropping supplies to remote units will eventu-

ally become the preferred method of delivery.

“We are planning to do at least one aerial supply drop every month. This way, we can keep the system from ‘atrophying,’” said Lt. Col. Hughes. 



Pfc. Robert H. Baumgartner



# Lessons in Gender Operations

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Reeba Critser

**E**LEVEN Yemeni women arrived in the United States recently to learn about how women here are integrated into tactical environments.

The women worked in their country's police departments for the past six years, serving as pris-

on guards, medics, administrative assistants and police officers. But their tactical duties were limited to situations involving civilian females.

Because Yemen is a Muslim country, men are forbidden to touch women who are not family members. Before female suspects are taken into custody, policewomen and female guards are called in to search them for weapons

Staff Sgt. Reeba Critser works at the Third Army/U.S. Army Central Public Affairs Office.



At Fort Jackson, Sgt. Melina Pressley explains the proper use of a bayonet to the visiting Yemeni women.



► The Yemeni women conclude their tour of the Atlanta Police Department with a briefing on the inner workings of a police car.



and other contraband.

The Yemeni women who came to the United States were hand-selected by the chief of staff of Yemen's central security forces to become the first females to serve in their country's counterterrorism unit. Following appropriate training, they'll work alongside men for the first time in their country's history.

While in the United States they underwent basics of unit operations training conducted by three British army female soldiers. Third Army/U.S. Army Central representatives later took the guests to Atlanta, Ga., and Fort Jackson, S.C.

"They're here to learn how professional women work, what it's like to work with male counterparts and what challenges they'll face," said counterterrorism unit training officer Capt. Hani Hamden.

He said the challenges are two-fold: the mission and society. Capt. Hamden said the women are in their early 20s, single, and come from

entry-level positions as administrative assistants, medics and intelligence analysts.

Because of Yemen's traditions and Islamic rules, it's hard for the women to progress rapidly in the work force. Their struggles are similar to what American women faced decades ago, said Capt. Hamden.

The Yemeni delegation visited the Atlanta Police Department as part of its tour. Maj. Pearlene Williams, chief of staff of the Atlanta PD, spoke to the women about the progression of women in the department.

The next stop was a visit to Third Army/ARCENT at Fort McPherson, Ga., to learn how women advanced in the U.S. Army.

Master Sgt. Nicole Evans, an enlisted-strength manager for Third Army/ARCENT, said that women currently serve in 91 percent of Army career fields and make up 14 percent of the active force. In October 2006 more than 25,000 women were serv-

ing in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

"I think these women are courageous," Master Sgt. Evans said of her guests. "Pioneers are the ones to suffer the initial bumps and bruises, so the road will be somewhat smoother for those who follow them."

"In their society, I know it's going to be very challenging," she added. "My prayer for these pioneers is that they will always strive to do their best, continue to learn, and, most importantly, never give up."

The next day the women visited with Gina Young, head of domestic terrorism issues at the Federal Bureau of Investigation field office in Atlanta.

According to Ms. Young, the FBI was created a century ago, but it wasn't until the early 1970s that the FBI accepted women as agents.

"Thirty-five years ago there was sexism," she said. "Not anymore. Women are in the higher levels of the headquarters, they're heads of domestic and overseas offices, part of hostage-negotiation teams, and scuba-rescue and SWAT teams."

With knowledge of the American woman's plight to attain equality in the work place, the Yemeni women traveled to Fort Jackson to observe first-hand how men and women train together in the military.

"When a woman comes to basic

"In their society, I know it's going to be very challenging. My prayer for these pioneers is that they will always strive to do their best, continue to learn, and, most importantly, never give up."





▲ Master Sgt. Mona Venning, operations NCOIC at Third Army/U.S. Army Central's G4, explains to the Yemeni women the rules that govern Soldiers' training with pugil sticks.

training, it can be overwhelming," said Sgt. Melinda Pressley, a drill sergeant leader at the Drill Sergeant School. "The female Soldier generally has preconceived notions of inadequacy about her ability to achieve physical-fitness standards. But all

Soldiers, regardless of sex, train to a single standard."

As a young girl, Cpl. Qobol al-Saadi wanted to be a policewoman after watching Egyptian mystery movies. A medic in Yemen, she volunteered to join the police department to help her country.

But it was difficult, she said. Women working in the government are viewed with disdain.

"At 16 I secretly went to the police academy for training, instead of going to school," Cpl. al-Saadi said.

When her family discovered the truth, she eventually convinced them that what she did was for the greater good. Today her younger sister is also in Yemen's counterterrorism unit.

Cpl. Sahar al-Salami, another medic, shared a similar childhood dream.

"I love adventure," Cpl. al-Salami said. "I like counterterrorism because it is very challenging."

Sgt. Fatima al-Ghambasi, an administrative assistant, said she hopes to see women involved in all jobs Yemen has to offer. She's dreamed of being a fighter pilot, and the police force was the closest she could get to that dream.

Sgt. al-Ghambasi said her introduction to American tactical organizations provided much insight into how men and women in America train and fight as one team. "Now, I have confidence to face the challenges ahead," she said.

To achieve the level of equality and unity the Americans share in training and operations is the Yemeni women's goal, said Cpl. al-Saadi.

"Our government thinks we are too soft, but we're not. We're the first in the police to join the counterterrorism unit." 🇺🇸



◀ The Yemeni women said they appreciated the openness and friendship with which they were treated during their visit to the United States.



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# Preventing Convoy Breakdowns

Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood

**F**ORWARD Operating Base Trebil, located near the Jordanian border in northwestern Iraq, got its name from British soldiers who were stationed at the base during bone-chilling winters. They pronounced it “trouble.”

Now, a team of 10 Soldiers of the Trebil Inspection Team from the Iowa Army National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry, is using the tiny base to create trouble for insurgents.

They’re preventing semi-truck and trailer convoys that haul everything from diesel fuel to backhoes

from breaking down on trips from base to base in areas of northwestern Iraq. Their maintenance vigilance decreases the vulnerability of convoy-escort teams to insurgent attacks, officials said. Each truck is inspected for “road worthiness” before it begins its several-hundred mile trip.

The inspections ensure that the trucks have proper amounts of fluids in their engines, working headlights and taillights, good tires, working brakes and no fluid leaks.

Team chief Maj. Todd Aarhus, an Iowa state trooper in civilian life, said, “We’re trying to prevent breakdowns from occurring by eliminating trucks that have serious mechanical problems.” Maj. Aarhus’s team has inspected about 20,000 trucks since assuming the maintenance mission.

The drivers of “rejected” trucks are given a “fix-it” ticket, which lists the vehicles’ deficiencies. The company supervisor is provided a copy of the document. To fix a problem, the driver has several options; he

can borrow parts from a fellow driver, drive his truck into a small area on the border between Iraq and Jordan called “no-man’s land” and attempt to repair his truck, or have the company bring him a needed part. Once the repairs are made, his vehicle can be re-inspected.

Maj. Aarhus also instituted more inspection points and recommended that the standards sheet be written in Arabic and given to the companies so they can disseminate the information to drivers.

Supervisors of the three companies that haul goods, who have been in Iraq for several years, told Maj. Aarhus that the difference between his team and the team it replaced is like “day and night.”

“My team really tightened up on its inspections last summer, when we discovered that drivers were stealing fuel on their trips and selling it for profit,” Maj. Aarhus said. The thieves siphoned the gas out of their tankers and poured it back into cans or external tanks under their trucks or trailers.

About 7,000 gallons of fuel was stolen from 12 trucks in just one day. “Think of the millions of gallons that were being lost,” Maj. Aarhus added.

When he started investigating, he discovered several of the drivers were carrying plastic cans and a variety of hoses. He confiscated about 300 of

Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood is assigned to the 1st Battalion, 34th Brigade Combat Team, Public Affairs Office.



◀ Spc. Michael Dittmar (left) and Sgt. Michael Nelson, both of 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry, inspect a trailer for bad tires and leaking fluids. The men are among a group of 10 Soldiers who conduct “road worthiness” inspections at Forward Operating Base Trebil.





the cans daily. Now he finds an average of 20 cans per convoy.

The drivers who were stealing fuel were banned from entering Iraq. And the confiscated fuel and cans were burned, officials said.

A representative from the Defense Energy Support Center in Kuwait, the organization that holds the Army contract for the International Oil Trading Company, visited the team later.

As far as Iraq's fuel losses are concerned, Maj. Aarhus said Jordan is on the watchdogs' radar, because it's the quickest of three transit points into Iraq. The other two are in Kuwait and Turkey.

Out of every six days, the inspection team spends about four days inspecting trucks. The remaining two days are spent in training.

1st Lt. Matthew Guerttman said the work cycle goes quickly. The inspection day begins with an Army move-

ment control team coordinating the staging of the trucks in the yard. This includes lining the trucks up in rows, and recording bumper numbers and drivers' passport numbers.

Maj. Aarhus' unit is divided into four teams of two Soldiers each, with each team spending about four hours inspecting each truck. He admits that they didn't have prior experience with commercial vehicles. He said assistance by the unit that they replaced and his team's combined knowledge

▲ Maj. Todd Aarhus explains how he and his Soldiers helped to significantly reduce the theft of fuel by contract drivers through frequent inspections of the vehicles. The drivers were siphoning fuel from the trucks' tanks, then storing it in jerry cans for later sale.

has helped the team succeed.

Its noncommissioned officer in charge, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Trenary, said he's most enjoyed working with the drivers.

When he and his team are done inspecting the trucks, they head back to a small morale, welfare and recreation building they

call home. They e-mail their families and friends, watch TV or prepare their own meals.

"There's just enough work to allow some time for relaxation," said Maj. Aarhus, fully aware that his team's work has saved many lives along the way. 🇺🇸

► Spc. Tyler Klotz ensures that the turn signals work on a contract vehicle. Trucks deemed to have serious mechanical problems are not allowed to proceed until repaired.





We Need Your

# Sharp Shooters Submissions

SOLDIERS wants your submissions for its “Sharp Shooters” photo feature. We are looking for interesting, exciting and Army-themed images that, alone or in combination with three to five photographs, tell a complete story. Soldiers, Family Members and Army Civilians, in fact any members of the SOLDIERS audience are eligible to participate.

Spc. Bryanna Poulin



Sgt. Jim Greenhill



Sgt. Jim Greenhill







MCC David Shen, USN

When submitting your images to Sharp Shooters, please follow these requirements:

Digital images should be a minimum size of 5x7 inches and a resolution no less than 300 dpi. Digital images can be sent via email to **[soldiers.magazine@smc.army.mil](mailto:soldiers.magazine@smc.army.mil)** with subject line: Sharp Shooters.

Conventional photo submissions should be mailed to:  
**Sharp Shooters**  
**Box 31**  
**2511 Jefferson Davis Hwy**  
**Arlington, VA 22202-3900**

All submissions must include an introductory paragraph and complete captions.



# GOOD NEWS: Medical Hold

Story and Photos by Ms. Rebecca E. Tonn

**G**IVEN the recent negative press about living conditions and the care provided to Soldiers recovering from injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army is moving ahead to focus on medical programs that help Soldiers recover.

Medical holdover is one program that's receiving raves at Fort Carson, Colo.

Medical holdover refers to a voluntary program for National Guard and

Ms. Rebecca E. Tonn works for the Fort Carson "Mountaineer" newspaper.

Reserve Soldiers who have served more than 30 days' active duty in a war zone and who are suffering from unresolved medical problems.

Upon demobilizing, they enter the Army's Transition Assistance Management Program for 180 days.

During medical holdover, Soldiers must go to all their scheduled medical appointments and, if they're physically and mentally able to, work at the federal facility to which they're temporarily assigned. The average stay for a Guard

or Reserve Soldier in medical holdover is 130 days, program officials said.

Case-management personnel establish a medical plan of care for each Soldier, who is then assigned a job that's been coordinated between medical holdover officials and, at Fort Carson, Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Van Dyke.

"A Soldier is assigned a job based on his rank, abilities and medical profile," said 1st Sgt. Karin Osburn of the 651st Area Support Group's Medical Retention Processing Unit.

Many Guard and Reserve Soldiers say the medical holdover program has been beneficial because time spent in medical holdover allows for more consistent medical care. And because program officials help employ patients who can work, it helps Soldiers feel useful during the time their medical issues are being taken care of, officials said.

Missouri Guard Sgt. Richard Rhodes was injured by an IED in Afghanistan in October 2005.

"The blast blew me around like a pinball," Sgt. Rhodes said. "Medics told me I was unconscious for a while." The explosion left him "shook up and out of it," and over the next few days he was incoherent and suffered severe headaches. Medics gave him Ibuprofen, and he continued to do his job.

Days later a second IED explosion propelled him out of his Humvee, and he landed on his head. Again, medics gave him Ibuprofen.

"I kept having severe headaches and couldn't sleep; I was having nightmares about the IED attacks. Since I

◀ Pfc. Anthony Angelos, a Utah National Guard Soldier, gets help from physical therapist Staff Sgt. Chasity Mims.





# over

was about to redeploy, I didn't want paperwork to slow down the process. I wanted to get home," Sgt. Rhodes said.

When he redeployed in August 2006, doctors discovered his brain was swollen and he was suffering from short-term memory loss. He was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury and degeneration of the discs in his neck. Additionally, Sgt. Rhodes said his blood pressure "kept soaring," he frequently broke out in a sweat, and his neck "kept tightening up." Soon after, he was also diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

"I don't know where I would be without Dr. Kenneth Delano, a clinical psychologist, and the psychology team at Evans Army Community Hospital at Fort Carson. They are unbelievable," said Sgt. Rhodes, who spent eight weeks undergoing physical therapy and cervical traction, and received epidural steroid injections.

When he first returned from Afghanistan, Sgt. Rhodes was skeptical about medical holdover and seeing a psychologist, but his opinion has changed.

"I don't regret coming into this program," Sgt. Rhodes said. Medical holdover commander Lt. Col. Gaylene Weber and the doctors he's seen "have been phenomenal."

Spc. Keith Stambaugh, a Reserve Soldier, was injured in Iraq in November 2006, while riding in a Humvee. He lost his middle finger, part of his ring finger and "a huge chunk of muscle" from his right forearm.

After spending a week at Landstuhl Regional Army Medical Center in



Germany, Spc. Stambaugh was evacuated to Fort Bliss, Texas. In January, he entered the medical holdover program at Fort Carson.

Capt. Graham Dunn, a Reserve Soldier and a Denver deputy sheriff, was in a vehicle accident in Iraq in August 2005. Both of his wrists were "snapped back," and he suffered trauma to his neck, but did not receive immediate medical treatment.

"Basically, you just go on with the mission: wrap the wrists, take Motrin seven days a week, 14 hours a day. It was miserable. I didn't realize the extent of the damage until redeployment," Capt. Dunn said.

When he returned to Colorado, surgeons repaired the damage to his left

▲ Sgt. Craig Andreas, a Reserve Soldier, uses Styrofoam dumbbells during rehabilitative water therapy at Fort Carson's Evans Army Community Hospital.

wrist, and he's scheduled for additional surgery and treatments to his neck and other wrist.

The medical holdover program is important, he said. For instance, if a Soldier is trying to get back to his job, and he has to recuperate for three to six months from a surgery, he probably wouldn't still have a job waiting for him. The program keeps such Soldiers employed and part of a team, while also giving them medical treatment.

"Once I joined the program I was able to get the appointments I needed. The medical care we're getting is top-notch," Capt. Dunn said. ■





## DINING FACILITY FEEDS 9,000 PER MEAL

**CAMP STRIKER, Iraq**

THE largest dining facility on Iraq's Victory Base complex recently opened. The facility, which employs more than 300, provides meals faster and serves about 9,000 people at each meal.

The facility also fills to-go food orders for units at field dining facilities.

— *Spc. Chris McCann, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Public Affairs Office*

## UNIT GIVES MILLIONS TO RE-ENLISTEES

**CAMP ADDER, Iraq**

A MINNESOTA Army National Guard unit gave more than \$15 million in re-enlistment bonuses to Soldiers in that state's Guard who have extended their military tours since deploying to Iraq less than a year ago.

More than 1,100 Soldiers in the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, have re-enlisted since the unit arrived in Iraq in April 2006.

Soldiers who re-enlist while deployed receive tax-free bonuses of varying amounts, depending on the number of years for which they re-enlist.

Those who re-enlisted for three years were awarded \$7,500, while six-year commitments garnered \$15,000.

Minnesota officials gave Minnesota-resident Soldiers and those who committed to six- to 12- year commitments an extra \$3,000 or \$5,000 for extending their enlistments by three or six years.

— *Spc. Dustin Perry*

## UNITS PARTICIPATE IN JUNIPER COBRA 2007

**Tel Aviv, Israel**

NEARLY 500 Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen from U.S. European Command and members of the Israeli Defense Forces recently took part in a 10-day training exercise to hone their skills in joint missile-defense tactics.

Juniper Cobra 2007 integrated the Army's Patriot missile systems with the Arrow-2 missile-defense systems operated by the IDF.

— *Staff Sgt. John Queen, 69th Air Defense Artillery PAO*







## DISABLED VETS TAKE ON ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Snowmass Village, Colo.

MORE than 400 disabled veterans participated at the 21st National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass Village.

Some 100 injured service members from operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom also participated.

The clinic provided disabled veterans opportunities for self-development and challenges through sports and leisure activities that included scuba diving, sled hockey, snowmobiling and rock climbing.

Visually impaired participants used skis and snowboards. Those who could not ski standing upright used adaptive equipment mounted on one or two skis.

For more details on the NDVWSC visit [www.wintersportsclinic.org](http://www.wintersportsclinic.org).

— Elaine Buehler,  
Department of Veterans Affairs



**Pyeongtaek, South Korea:** SOLDIERS throughout Korea participated in live-fire training during Exercise Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration. Support battalions gained insight into their ability to issue military hardware and equipment during war.

— Frank Fisher, *Stars and Stripes*



## MARRIAGE REGULATION PROTECTS SERVICEMEMBERS

A NEW U.S. Forces, Korea, regulation protects service members from entering into fraudulent marriages or getting married illegally.

The policy ensures that personnel know the requirements for marriage in Korea before they walk down the aisle, and that they comply with both U.S. and Korean laws.

Under the policy, a servicemember's battalion-level commander must counsel the member and intended spouse in two sessions to verify the service member's financial stability and to inform him or her of the possibility of a tour extension.

Servicemembers must also:

- Sign an affidavit of acknowledgement regarding penalties for visa fraud;
- Meet with their unit's security officer; and
- Undergo a premarital counseling session with a chaplain and a legal briefing by a legal specialist.

Servicemembers and intended spouses must also undergo medical examinations. The intended spouses of personnel who have access to sensitive information must also undergo a background check.

Personnel who violate this policy can be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

For more information, visit the U.S. Embassy, Seoul, Web site at [www.seoul.usembassy.gov/getting\\_married.html](http://www.seoul.usembassy.gov/getting_married.html). — Army News Service



## MILITARY BLOOD DONORS MAKE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS

ABOUT 20 percent of servicemembers donate blood, compared to less than 5 percent of civilians, according to the director of the U.S. military's blood program.

This year, the Armed Services Blood Program will collect about 160,000 pints of blood. The ASBP collects blood only from servicemembers, government civilians, retirees and their family members.

The U.S. military needs blood for critically injured troops, cancer patients, premature infants and other uses.

Blood is always in demand. Blood products normally must be replenished about 42 days after being collected. Frozen blood can be stored for years.

For more information on giving blood visit the Web site [www.militaryblood.dod.mil](http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil).

— ARNEWS



## VA REVIEWS FACILITIES



SECRETARY of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson has ordered a special review of non-VA health-care facilities that house wounded and injured servicemembers. He ordered the study to ensure some 1,400 hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and other facilities where veterans receive VA health care are in top-notch condition.

The VA operates the largest integrated health-care system in the United States, with 155 hospitals, some 900 outpatient clinics and 135 nursing homes. It treated more than 5.4 million patients last year, accounting for about 55 million outpatient visits and 600,000 hospitalizations. — ARNEWS



## PEO SOLDIER TESTS IMPROVED PARACHUTE SYSTEM

THE Program Executive Office Soldier is testing a new parachute designed for increased weight requirements and additional safety benefits for paratroopers.

In 2008 all T-10 parachutes will be replaced by the T-11 Advanced Tactical Parachute System. With paratroopers being required to carry more equipment, T-11s are designed to carry a paratrooper and his gear more slowly and safely to the ground.

According to LTC John Lemondes, PEO Soldier's product manager for clothing and individual equipment, the T-11 Reserve Parachute is more reliable and much safer than the T-10.

Under the current plan, the 75th Ranger Regiment, the Rigger School and the Airborne School will receive the T-11 starting in 2008. The 82nd Airborne Division will receive the new parachute in 2009.

T-10s will be replaced Armywide by 2014. — *ARNEWS*



## ZERO TOLERANCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

SEXUAL assault is a crime that is incompatible with military values and will not be tolerated within the Department of Defense, said Mr. David S.C. Chu, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"Sexual assault is devastating to the individuals it victimizes," Mr. Chu said. "It weakens trust and creates strife within our units. It undermines the state of readiness of the armed forces as a whole."

Sexual assault is one of the nation's most underreported crimes. National statistics show that an assault occurs every 90 seconds. One in every six women and one in every 33 men will be the victims of rape or attempted rape in their lifetimes.

"Sexual assault remains a troubling issue in America," Mr. Chu said. "Since the military reflects the society it serves, the issue faces the Department of Defense as well."

DOD promotes a climate of respect that encourages every service member to join in a cooperative effort to end sexual violence, said Ms. Kaye Whitley, director of the Sexual-Assault Prevention and Response Office. — *ARNEWS*



## ARMY LEARNS ENVIRONMENTAL LESSONS FROM NFL

DURING a recent lecture on sustainability, hosted by the Army Environmental Policy Institute, the Army took cues from the National Football League on reducing negative impacts on the environment.

Mr. Jack Groh, the NFL's environmental program director, explained the NFL's progress in incorporating environmental programs in cities that host such NFL events as the Super Bowl and Pro Bowl.

The program reduces carbon dioxide produced by NFL-related events through the planting of tree seedlings to offset greenhouse-gas emissions, such as were created during the 2007 Super Bowl.

The Army is also going beyond the required environmental regulations, according to Ms. Karen Baker, an AEPI senior fellow.

In 2008 the Army will require all new military construction to achieve an environmental standard established by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

The Army's Residential Communities Initiative is looking for ways to build more sustainable communities, including the world's largest solar-powered community at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. — *ARNEWS*



## AAFES EARNS RECOGNITION FROM HISPANIC MAGAZINE

THE Army & Air Force Exchange Service has been recognized by Hispanic Trends magazine as one of the top 50 corporations for supplier diversity.

Hispanic Trends analyzed companies on their devotion of time, energy and company resources to the development of supplier-diversity programs that seek to recruit and retain minority suppliers, provide networking opportunities, and procure high-quality products or services.

Last year AAFES spent more than \$43 million on minority-owned companies.

To find out more about AAFES, visit [www.aafes.com/pa/default.asp](http://www.aafes.com/pa/default.asp). — *ARNEWS*



## VIRTUAL-TOOL PTSD TREATMENT

PART of a new therapy for combat-related Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is being fine-tuned at Madigan Army Medical Center, Wash.

PTSD causes patients to associate formerly normal environmental cues with life-threatening events.

For example, if a Soldier was in a convoy that was attacked in Iraq, he may associate that event with driving, responding to the task as if it were a life-threatening situation, even though it's nothing more than the daily commute.

Exposure therapy is a standard treatment for PTSD. However, exposure therapy can be difficult for combat-related PTSD, because Soldiers cannot be re-exposed to combat as part of their therapy.

MAMC is the only Army medical center testing this virtual-reality technology. The goal is to get feedback from 300 Soldiers to make the technology as realistic as possible.

A team that's developing the therapy method hopes to have virtual reality available as treatment by this summer. — *ARNEWS*





## FLAGS FROM IRAQ TO AMERICA

FLAGS from paratroopers of the 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment in Iraq, are available for purchase through the unit's family readiness group.

Soldiers, family members and friends have started buying American flags that were flown in Iraq either as gifts, or to show their patriotism.

The flags sell for \$25, and each comes with a certificate of authentication signed by the command sergeant major of the 1st Sqdrn., 73rd Cav. Regt.

— ARNEWS



For more information on purchasing a flag, email [taskforcebluefalcon@yahoo.com](mailto:taskforcebluefalcon@yahoo.com)

## ARMY SHARES IMAGES

THE Army is sharing videos and photos of Soldiers around the world at popular content-sharing Web sites.

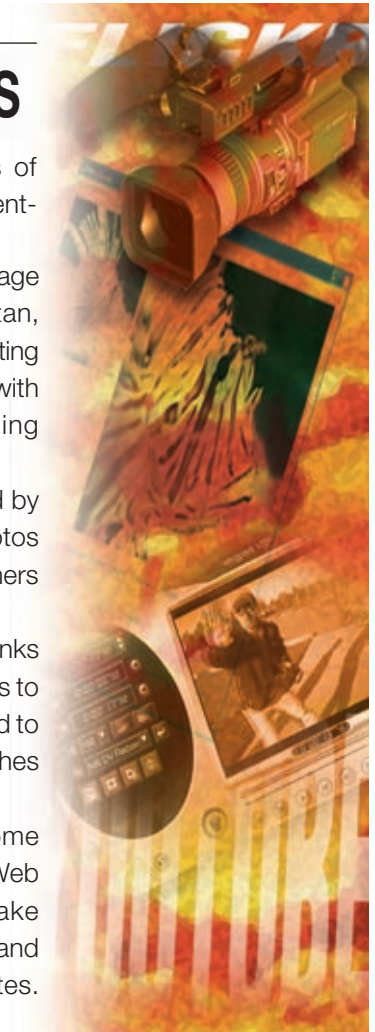
YouTube, Flickr and Del.icio.us show footage of Soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, guarding the U.S. southwestern border, assisting others during natural disasters, partnering with emergency first-responders and providing humanitarian assistance.

The videos, many of which are produced by Army broadcasters, are on YouTube. Photos taken by Defense Department photographers are available on Flickr.

Del.icio.us, a link-sharing site, contains links to Army sites on subjects ranging from sports to installation homepages. The content is added to the sites by the Army.mil team, which publishes the Army's homepage.

All three sites are accessible from home computers and are considered "social" Web sites, meaning visitors can interact, make comments on content, link to that content and embed the Web address in their own sites.

— ARNEWS



## MORE THAN ONE WAY TO OCS

SOLDIERS can now apply for direct Officer Candidate School selection.

Installation commanders may select up to 20 eligible Soldiers to attend OCS in 2007 and waive the previous requirement for a local interview board to make the selections. The new policy will ease the officer-selection process and help the Army meet its challenge of recruiting 300 more officers this year.

Soldiers who want to attend OCS must still meet eligibility requirements and complete OCS applications.

The age limit for applicants is 42, and those who apply must have at least 90 semester hours of college credit and a minimum general technical score of 110.

The review board still exists, and Soldiers can elect to apply to OCS both ways. In cases in which direct selection doesn't happen, Soldiers can still go before a selection board.

— ARNEWS



or more information, visit [www.infantry.army.mil/ocs](http://www.infantry.army.mil/ocs)



# Saluting Soldiers' Supporters

Story by Jean Davis



Family members pledge allegiance to the flag at the beginning of a recent commendation ceremony.

Freedom Team Salute spokeswoman Jean Davis.

A salute provides the wonderful opportunity for a Soldier, such as Capt. Fegley, to say the many things he'd like to say to his mother that he feels others should also know, Mrs. Davis said.


In Capt. Fegley's citation to his mom, he wrote: "Thank you so much for all the support you have always given me. It means a lot to me knowing that I have your love and support from back home. I am really proud of all the effort and hard work you put into honoring the Army and helping Soldiers. What makes it truly special is the sincerity with which you do this.

"I know you do not put the time and effort in for self-congratulating reasons. You do this because you honestly care. Thank you again for all the support, and thank you for making me proud to be your son," he wrote.

Col. T. Scott Lloyd, director of the Freedom Team Salute Program, said: "Patriotism comes in many forms. While Soldiers make great sacrifices for their country, so do the families they leave behind. Freedom Team Salute was created as a way to say 'thank you' to the people who support our Soldiers' sacrifices and, in many ways, make their service possible."

"My words do not convey how I feel to be honored," said Mrs. Fegley. "I'm particularly happy because Aaron, my oldest son, sent an e-mail from Iraq to nominate me to receive a commendation from Freedom Team Salute. In addition, my youngest son, Brett, was recently commissioned as a second lieutenant. So, without doubt, I am a very proud mother."

The process of honoring someone is simple and can be completed by visiting [www.FreedomTeamSalute.com](http://www.FreedomTeamSalute.com). Forms may be completed to honor parents, spouses, employers and veterans. In four to six weeks the honoree will receive a package with a personalized letter and certificate of appreciation from the secretary of the Army and the Army chief of staff, and a "parent," "spouse," "employer" or "veteran" lapel pin.

"In the Army, we talk about selfless service a lot. But it's important that Soldiers demonstrate their appreciation for those who help make their service possible," Col. Lloyd said. 

**M**ARIAN Fegley, the wife of a retired Soldier and mother of two Soldiers, sat pensively as veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam passed in front of her.

As part of a recent Freedom Team Salute Commendation ceremony, they were headed toward a stage, to be honored for their service to America.

Mrs. Fegley watched the tears roll down the veterans' weathered cheeks as Lt. Gen. Michael D. Rochelle, Army deputy chief of staff for personnel, placed Army pins on their lapels. Suddenly, she heard her name called and was jolted back into the moment.

Surprised, she learned from an official at the podium that her son, Capt. Aaron Fegley, had submitted her name as an honoree, to be recognized with the distinguished veterans who had assembled for the event.

Freedom Team Salute is an Army program that allows Soldiers to recognize people within their support networks, including parents and spouses, who are integral to their accomplishment of Army missions, said Capt. Fegley.

Freedom Team Salute provides active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers the opportunity to recognize and honor a parent's service, a spouse's commitment and an employer's long-standing support, said

Jean Davis works for Army Public Affairs at the Pentagon.



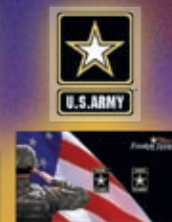


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- Certificate of Appreciation and personal message of appreciation signed by the Secretary of the Army and the Army Chief of Staff
- U.S. Army decal
- Official U.S. Army lapel pin



**FreedomTeamSalute.com**<sup>SM</sup>

**SAY "THANK YOU" TO THE ARMY FAMILY**





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A Special Operations Chinook Helicopter Crew Chief prepares the aircraft over a drop zone before a jump.  
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